

9 to 4:30

(Continued from Page 2)

in force. It lets U. S. workers purchase life insurance in amounts equal to the next \$1000 above their annual salaries—with Government paying a third of the cost.

Correction: A recent column incorrectly stated one finding in a newly completed Civil Service Commission analysis of layoffs in 23 military installations during 1957. It should have read:

Out of 14,744 Career employees with veterans preference, only 154 were laid off, and only 312 downgraded. By contrast, out of 8431 non-veteran Career workers, 821 were laid off, and 700 downgraded.

Not Permanent

- The rebel Progressive group (New York City, Los Angeles and other delegates) who walked out of the recent National Federation of Post Office Clerks convention in Boston has let it be known it has no plans to secede from the parent union.

The rebels dislike the NFPOC's convention voting system, which, they claim, gives undue power to rural locals—at the expense of big city locals.

- Commerce Personnel Director Carlton Hayward to this week's National Federation of Federal Employees convention in Kansas City.

"There is a vast gulf of misunderstanding and misapprehension between many management officials in the Government and representatives of employe organizations. . .

"Work environment in the Government is basically somewhat different from the work environment in private industry, and employe-management relationships also must be somewhat different. Collective bargaining in the Government, especially in the executive departments, is in my opinion simply inappropriate, just as strikes against Government are illegal. The proper substitute for collective bargaining, of course, is to bring employe viewpoints, in an orderly way to the attention of the Congress, which regulates compensation and fringe benefits."

2—THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, SEPT 14, 1956

9 to 4:30



Wage Board Pay Ruling to Be Sought

By JOHN CRAMER

Federal agencies will seek a Comptroller General's ruling to clarify that newly enacted law which is designed to speed up periodic pay raises for Government's 750,000 wage board (blue collar) employees.

Such raises are based on agency surveys of industrial wage rates in local areas.

The new law says future raises will take effect 45 working days after the agencies order the surveys.

And House-Senate conferees who put the legislation into final shape agreed that this language meant 45 days after agencies order the actual start of industrial wage data collection.

They did not, however, write this agreement into the law itself.

And that raises the problem whether the language of the law or the intent of the conferees is to be controlling.

SURVEYS

In practice, agencies frequently "order" surveys 30 to 60 days before they direct the start of data collection.

Thus, the Comptroller conceivably could find that the law demands the earlier date, rather than the one intended by the conferees.

To do that, he will have to find that the law itself is unclear. Otherwise, the question of legislative intent can't be raised.

Insurance Report

- Benefits totalling \$208 million already have been paid out under the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program, which went into effect in 1954, Civil Service Commission reports.

A total of 43,046 claims have been paid, including 13,948 for \$68,224,910 during the 12-month period ending last July 1.

The program is the world's largest of its type, with \$1 billion of insurance currently



Abroad

BRITISH scientists, revealing details of an accident in which the big Windscale plutonium plant contaminated the atmosphere with radiation clouds, said radioactivity in milk multiplied "hundreds of times" in three days, "almost immediately exceeding levels of radioactive iodine calculated to cause thyroid cancer in children." Thousands of gallons were confiscated.

- The second Marine battalion to be withdrawn from Lebanon will start boarding ships in Beirut, Monday, bound for the United States.

- A fresh outburst of fighting, with 113 rebels "killed or captured" in a two-day battle, plagued Algeria, causing heightened tension between Moslems and French settlers.

At Home

Imagination

SUPERMEN in prison garb, mite-sized policemen, monsters and a gentleman gangster were featured in a New York exhibit of paintings by emotionally disturbed boys, the Wiltwyck School.